Cerebral palsy (CP) is a term for a group of neurological disorders that permanently affect movement and posture, causing characteristic deviations or abnormalities in hand and foot movement and in the ability to walk. CP is usually diagnosed in the first years of a child's life while the brain is still developing. Many children with cerebral palsy are not diagnosed until their second or third birthday, due to the difficulty in recognizing the signs and symptoms.

**Symptoms**

- **Spasticity** – stiff or tight muscles and exaggerated reflexes
- **Stiff or floppy muscle tone**
- **Walking on the toes, with a crouched or a “scissored” gait**
- **Walking with one foot or leg dragging**
- **Lack of muscle coordination when performing voluntary movements (ataxia)**

**Types of Spastic Cerebral Palsy**

- **Spastic diplegia/diparesis**
- **Spastic hemiplegia/hemiparesis**
- **Spastic paraplegia**
- **Spastic quadriplegia/quadriparesis**

**Risk Factors**

- Premature birth
- Infections during pregnancy
- Use of infertility treatments

**Management/Treatment of CP**

- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- Braces
- Surgery
- Botulinum toxin injections
- Anti-spasticity oral medications

**Economic Impact of CP**

- Estimated lifetime cost to care for someone with CP
- Estimated lifetime cost for children with cerebral palsy

**Estimated combined lifetime costs for children in the U.S. diagnosed with cerebral palsy are impacted by spasticity.**

**Conclusion:**

Cerebral palsy is a lifelong chronic condition, and the symptoms can change over a person's lifetime. Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial for improving outcomes and quality of life for children with CP.